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MASON'S VOICE OF HISTORY

Tumbleweed Smith

"People talk about the good old days and I'm so glad I didn't live then."

Those are the words of Scott Zesch of Mason. After he graduated from A & M and spent two years with the Peace Corps in Kenya, he earned a degree in law from Harvard University.

"I practiced for two years. It wasn't for me but I'm kind of a nerd and enjoyed the legal research and writing a lot more."



Tumbleweed Smith

He writes historical novels. "I have a niche job to support my creative writing habit. I research and write books for lawyers. I'm probably one of maybe a hundred people in the United States that do this."

One of his books is titled CAPTURED, a non-fiction account about nine children from Texas kidnapped by Apaches or Comanche in the 1860s and 70s. Some were held for ransom.

"The U.S. government eventually cracked down on the practice of paying a hundred dollars ransom to get a child back because they said all that's doing is encouraging more captives to be taken."

Some of the captives, usually between seven and ten years of age, liked the Indian way of life. It was easier than living with their families.

"Their birth parents were so busy and working so hard themselves they just didn't have a lot of time to spend with the kids teaching them. A lot of the children spent their days doing tedious and monotonous chores in the fields and working livestock.

"Their adoptive Indian parents would really spend quite a bit of time training them in warfare, in riding, shooting a bow and arrow and hunting buffalo. The youngsters got to travel around and see new country. They had a lot more fun with the Indians and so I think they felt valued because somebody was investing time teaching them. After being released from the Indians, some of the children had trouble adjusting to living with their birth families again."

He did painstaking research in newspapers, on microfilm, going through government records and doing interviews with descendants of captives. Some of his material came from unusual sources.

"In one case in Kansas, I left a message in a bottle on a captive's grave and actually got a response from that."

Scott is Mason County's senior historian.

"We've had older people I could always go to for a quick answer on Mason history. We have lost all of those people now. So now I am it and people come to me and it's frightening."

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W	A	L	T	O	N	S	P	E	Y	T	O	N	P	L	A	C	E	T
A	F	N	G	I	X	A	T	V	H	O	D	D	C	O	U	P	L	E
L	L	E	A	R	M	E	R	E	H	W	E	S	L	E	T	S	O	Y
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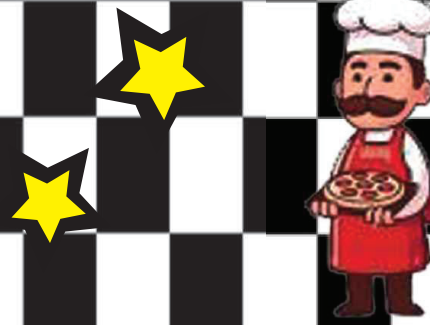
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Obits



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Mark Massey

Graveside service for Mark Massey, age 62, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at Tira Cemetery with Bro. Mark Garrett, Bro. Charles Sickles, and Ray Glen Jordan officiating. Visitation will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mr. Massey passed away at Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Dallas, Texas on Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Mark Allen Massey was born on February 27, 1962 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to L.J. and Judy (Wright) Massey. He married Jeana Gilley in Lancaster, Texas on August 21, 1982. Mark owned and operated Massey Steel Frame Construction as a General Contractor for many years. He delivered prescriptions at Cody Drug over the last few years and enjoyed meeting new people. Mark was a member of the First Baptist Church and also attended Grace Family Church. Left to cherish his memory is his beloved wife of 42 years, Jeana Massey of Sulphur Springs; two children, Justin Massey and wife Carmen of Waco, Texas, Morgan Vail and husband Trent of Sulphur Springs; father, L.J. Massey; mother, Judy Cunningham; grandchildren, Ally Massey, Journi Vail, Noah Massey, Eli Vail, Lillian Massey, Everli Vail, Judd Vail;

brothers, Mike Massey, Shawn Massey and wife Natasha, Laramie Massey; uncles, Andy Wright and wife Mary Lou, Tony Flippin; sisters-in-law, Lisa Bailey and husband Ron, Laura Briggs and husband Randy; brother-in-law, Timothy Needham and wife Julie; mother-in-law, Joyce Needham; eleven nieces and nephews; other family, Randa Massey and Michelle Massey.

He greets in Heaven his brother, Jeff Massey; uncles, Micky Wright, Randy Wright; special aunt, Beckey Flippin; grandmother, Euton Wright; and father-in-law, Tim Needham.

Sherry Layne Baxter

She was born June 17, 1936, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, where she lived her entire life on property that her family has occupied since just after the Civil War. She was married in her family's living room to Max "Poss" Baxter from Brashear, Texas, on June 1, 1957. After her graduation from SSSHS, she completed her Bachelor's Degree from ETSTC in 3 years. When she was a young mother, she belonged to the Mother's Culture Club, and she was a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church.

She was the amazing mother to Kimberle Baxter, David Baxter, and Darrell Baxter; grandmother to Daniel and Adam (Amanda) Baxter, and great grandmother to Kolton, Ryder, River, and Kaise Baxter.

Sherry could do anything well...and often did. She could milk cows, cook like a chef, build fence, cut grass, design and sew formals, design and build a float, shred her pasture, cut trees and plant trees, paint her house, and be a girl scout den mother.. These and many more were the jobs for which she didn't get paid. But she did have a number of paying jobs over the years: selling tickets at Carnation, Mission, and Hi-Vue Drive-in movie theaters, working at front counter of the Daily News Telegram, in the offices of Sulphur Springs Livestock Auction, Jones Livestock. Her principal job, however, was to provide a comfortable home for her 3 children and her husband. For the greater part of 45 years, she cared for Poss, who had progressive Multiple Sclerosis, rendering him a quadriplegic for his last 20 years.

Those who are left to appreciate her love and talents are her children; her sister, Annada Elliott Jones and husband James Jones; and sister-in-law, Rickie Carpenter Elliott and sons Trey Elliott and Joel Elliott. She treasured her Baxter in-laws and thoroughly enjoyed providing a location for the Baxter family reunion for many years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Max "Poss" Baxter; parents, Bill and Marguerite Gilbert Elliott; brother, Billy Sam Elliott; infant son, Gilbert Morris Baxter; and her parents-in-law, Vera and Frank Baxter.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, July 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home



Tim Blanchard

A visitation was held for Tim Blanchard on Friday, July 12, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Way Bible Church 674 FM 2560 Sulphur Springs, Texas. There was no formal service. Tim passed away on July 1, 2024, in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He was born on January 30, 1954, to Richard and Dotsie Blanchard in Plainwell Michigan. Tim married Patricia Sutton on November 17, 1972.

Tim was a quiet, humble, funny man. With his kind and generous heart, he was always willing to help anyone in need and never expected anything in return. He loved family cross-country road trips to Branson, MO and to his home state of Michigan to visit loving family. As a sports fan, he enjoyed visiting the Baseball Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame and taking golf trips with family and friends. Tim shared his love of sports with his sons. He coached them in youth sports, then became their number one fan from the stands. To his family, he was their rock and will forever be missed.

He is survived by his loving wife, Patricia Blanchard; mother, Dotsie Blanchard; sons, Tim Blanchard and his wife, Amy and Jason Blanchard and his wife, Angela; one brother, Patrick Blanchard; grandchildren, Hunter Blanchard, Kylie Blanchard and Neelie Blanchard; father-in-law, William Sutton; sister-in-law, Loretta Stice and Gary Litner and his brother-in-law, Bill Sutton and his wife, Shirley. Tim is preceded in death by his father, Richard Blanchard; mother-in-law, Peggy Sutton and his granddaughter, Molly Blanchard.

Obits Continued



Jerry Gillispie

Memorial service for Jerry Gillispie, age 78, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Bro. Mike Eason officiating. Inurnment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park with Willy Sanchez, Dakota Watts, Jeremy Skaggs, Stetsyn Sanchez, and Megan Watts serving as pallbearers. Mr. Gillispie passed away at Rock Creek Health and Rehabilitation in Sulphur Springs on Sunday, July 14, 2024. Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com

Claude Ellis Chapman

November 10, 1925 — July 14, 2024

Sulphur Springs

Funeral service for Claude Chapman, age 98, of Sulphur Springs, Texas will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2024 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Mt. Sterling Cemetery with Brandon Hopper, Jackson Rhyne, Jacob Bell, Joe Chapman, Lee Chapman, and Tim Sewell serving as pallbearers. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Chapman passed away at his home on Sunday, July 14, 2024.



James R Blake

September 30, 1952 — July 9, 2024

Alba, TX

James Blake of Alba, Texas passed away July 9, 2024, at his home.

He was born September 30, 1952, in Morton, Texas, to Bill R. Blake Jr. and Juanita Blake. James lived a life filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories. He moved to Emory in 1986, he quickly became a beloved member of the community, known for his radiant smile that could light up even the darkest room.

In his youth, James was an accomplished baseball player for the Hawks. It was on the dance floor where he met his beloved wife Gisela, a meeting that would spark a lifetime of love and partnership. He had a deep-seated love for the outdoors and could often be found hunting or fishing, reveling in nature's beauty. James was also known for his kindness towards animals, showcasing a tender heart that endeared him to many. He was also a dedicated handworker and perfectionist, whose passion

for excellence extended into his career as the proud owner of Blake Electric.

James will be deeply missed by his surviving family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife Gisela Blake; devoted sister Janice Steward and her spouse Roger; brothers Joel Blake and Johnny Blake; nephew Andrew Crocker; and niece Halie Werge.

He is preceded in death by his parents Bill R. Blake Jr. and Juanita Blake; sister Judy Bobo; and brother Jimmy Blake.

James' legacy of hard work, kindness, and zest for life will forever live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

May he rest in peace.

Chance Roger Morgan

March 22, 1984 ~ July 2, 2024 (age 40)

Chance Roger Morgan passed away on July 2, 2024. Services and full obituary are pending.



Carrie Lenn Turner

Carrie Lenn Turner, age 66, of Mount Vernon, Texas passed away on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, in Tyler, Texas.

Carrie was born on July 26, 1957, to Sunny and Eddie Turner in Savannah, Georgia.

Carrie was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Windle Turner.

Survivors include her daughter, Kelsey Barnhard of Kingsland, Georgia. She was blessed with four beautiful grandchildren: Christian, Zachary, Grayson, and Caroline. Survivors also include her best friend, Ron Walker of Pittsburg, TX; sister, Pam (Greg) Smith and niece, Lauren of Lititz, PA; niece, Natalie Turner White and daughter, Aubrey of Mount Vernon, TX; and niece, Blair (Trent) Davis and children, Holden and Perry of Mount Vernon, TX.

Carrie spent over 20 years as a counselor for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She is now with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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